Message from the Director

2013 was a very busy year for ICIC, with a lot of exciting changes. We welcomed a lot of new people to the center, including Ana Traversa who joined us as our Research Coordinator and is now our Education Coordinator. We were so busy, we barely had time to notice that the center was established fifteen years ago, in 1998. One of our major projects for the year was a new pilot study with our ongoing collaborator Volunteers in Medicine of Columbus, Indiana, and Rebecca Ellis, a faculty member in the IU School of Nursing. We also had a Strategic Summit in August which helped to refine our goals and direction for the coming years.

2014 promises to be exciting as well. The center is fully staffed, welcoming Aron DiBacco as Research Coordinator, Veronica Halsema as Grants/Funding Specialist, Angela Herrmann as Education Assistant, and Cynthia Murdock as Office Coordinator and Administration Support Specialist. Our Education and Research programs can go full speed ahead. This will be helped by our new collaboration with David Haggstrom under his Signature Center Initiative for the Center for Cancer Population Analytics and Patient-Centered Informatics in the IU School of Medicine. This year will also mark the twentieth anniversary of Tsuda College’s summer intensive English program at IUPUI, which we have overseen since ICIC was created.

With best wishes for a happy, safe and productive new year,

Ulla M. Connor
Director, Indiana Center for Intercultural Communication

Collaboration with Signature Center

In 2013, the Center for Cancer Population Analytics and Patient-Centered Informatics in the IU School of Medicine, under its director Dr. David A. Haggstrom, received initial funding under the IUPUI Signature Center Initiative. ICIC is pleased to announce that the center will be working with Dr. Haggstrom to provide expertise in linguistics and health literacy.
Strategic Summit

ICIC hosted a Strategic Summit on August 8-9 to provide a broad overview of ICIC’s future and discuss avenues for potential growth. A distinguished panel of world scholars in Applied Linguistics participated: Dwight Atkinson, Diane Belcher, Paul Matsuda, and Bill Rozycki. At the closing event, the Summit members presented an Executive report to William Blomquist, Dean of the IU School of Liberal Arts. A few days after that, Dwight Atkinson presented the Summit’s recommendations to ICIC’s advisory board.

Among the recommendations of the Summit:

1. Consider changing the name of ICIC to reflect its international scope and reputation, from "Indiana Center for Intercultural Communication" to "International Center for Intercultural Communication.” ICIC is currently exploring the viability of that option.

2. Strengthen ICIC’s potential for transdisciplinary collaboration. Because intercultural communication involves more than just the Department of English, a suggestion was made to move ICIC from the Department of English to the School of Liberal Arts to enable a broader range of topics and collaborators to be explored by ICIC in the future. ICIC is currently exploring the viability of that option.

3. Develop ICIC’s infrastructure for growth and stability.

Clockwise from left: Diane Belcher, Paul Matsuda, Joann Ingulli-Fattic, Larry Cimino, Ulla Connor, Bill Rozycki, Dwight Atkinson, Asieh Dicken, and William Blomquist, Dean of the IU School of Liberal Arts

Staff Updates

Ana Traversa worked as the Research Coordinator for ICIC in 2013 and has recently transitioned to be Education Coordinator. With Andy Buchenot, she was heavily involved with the Web Portal redesign for the Simon Cancer Center and has conducted education development. On a personal note, Ana ran her first marathon in 2013, completing the New York City Marathon in four hours, forty-nine minutes and fifty-eight seconds (04:49:58).
Anette Uuttu was the ICIC intern from Finland this past summer. Her thesis was *The Use of Personal Pronouns in Barack Obama's Nomination Acceptance Addresses*. While here in the United States, she and her long-time fiancé Tomi flew to Las Vegas and got married.

Angela Herrmann has joined ICIC part-time as an Education Assistant. She has a B.A. in Spanish and Journalism, an M.A. in Earth Literacy, and a professional certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language. She is also currently working toward a Certificate in TESOL and M.A. in English at IUPUI.

Aron DiBacco has joined ICIC as its Research Coordinator. She has a B.A. in Liberal Arts (Harvard) and an M.A. in Applied Communication (Indiana University). IUPUI awarded her a Fellowship in Communication Studies. She is also a member of the International Association of Relationship Research (IARR), the Association of Conflict Resolution (ACR), and the National Communication Association (NCA).

Cynthia Murdock has joined ICIC as the Office Coordinator/Administration Support Specialist. Cynthia brings nearly 20 years of administrative experience in higher education. She will provide administrative support to staff and clients and perform financial operations. She will also assist with education and international program coordination and help organize workshops and international visits. Cynthia is working on a B.A. in General Studies.

James Marshall joined ICIC as research assistant for the 2013-2014 academic year. He worked on the Tailored Messaging project with Professor Connor and is lending a hand where needed. He is working on an M.A. in English with a graduate certificate in TESOL.

Kelly Sumner organized and ran the successful Tsuda and Hakuoh summer programs while also working on a research project with Diane Lorant. The project involves teaching English for Specific Purposes to Latino families with limited English proficiency who have infants in the Wishard Hospital NICU, about which Kelly presented a poster at the recent INTESOL conference. She also became the Executive Secretary of INTESOL in the recent board elections. Unfortunately for ICIC, Kelly has recently accepted a permanent position as Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions at the Office of International Affairs at IUPUI. We wish her the best.

Veronica Halsema joined ICIC as a grants and funding specialist in September 2013. She works with Aron DiBacco to seek funding for research opportunities. She has an MPH from IU Bloomington.

**Associated Scholar Updates**

**André (Andy) Buchenot** is the current Scholar in Residence at ICIC. He is an assistant professor in the English department at IUPUI and is currently conducting research on database-driven writing assessment and health-literacy website development. Related to the latter topic, he has worked with Ana on the Simon Cancer Center Web Portal redesign. He continues to serve as chair of Teaching Writing in College Permanent Section of the Midwest Modern Language Association. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2010.

**Manyun (Cloud) Zou** has come to ICIC from Peking University in China as a visiting scholar. Her research is exploring Chinese diabetes patients’ language use as it relates to diabetes management. This research will be based on the framework Ulla Connor has established in research on American diabetes patients with regard to the psychosociolinguistic constructs of control orientation, agency and affect.

**Marta Antón** won the Outstanding Faculty Award by the School of Liberal Arts, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis in 2013. She and **Elizabeth Goering**, both former ICIC Scholars in Residence, also collaborated on a book, *Understanding patients’ voices: A multi-method approach to health discourse*, to be published by the John Benjamins Publishing Company.

**Rebecca Ellis**, Assistant Professor, Science of Nursing Care Department, IU School of Nursing, began working with ICIC in 2013 on a pilot/feasibility study using psychosociolinguistic constructs to tailor messages for people with diabetes in order to improve their medication adherence and healthy behaviors. She will continue working with the center in 2014 to expand that into a full research study.

In 2014, **Dwight Atkinson** of Purdue University, **Srikant Sarangi** of Cardiff University, and **Viviana Cortes** of Georgia State University will continue to actively collaborate with the center’s research projects.
The Joan and Larry Cimino Award for Excellence in Intercultural Communication

This award is for the best paper or thesis on intercultural communication submitted by a student enrolled in a graduate course in a degree program offered through one of the departments in the IU School of Liberal Arts.

Understanding between and among disparate cultures has challenged humankind throughout history; intercultural communication, is a key element in achieving that understanding. The award is based on a belief that a disciplined approach to the study of intercultural communication can provide valuable insights toward achieving understanding among cultures. The study of intercultural communication is broadly defined to include research in areas such as language corpora, contrastive rhetoric, second language acquisition, second language pedagogy, language and communication theory, as well as other related fields.

Criteria
The award is granted to the graduate student presenting the best paper or thesis advancing our understanding of intercultural communication as defined above. Recipients must be enrolled in a graduate degree program in Liberal Arts.

For more information contact ICIC at icic@iupui.edu or go to the award’s website.

Students may also submit their application electronically through the Liberal Arts scholarship website.

Details
Scholarship Amount: Up to $500
Application Deadline: February 1, 2014
Department: English

Last year’s winners Jennifer Wright (left) and Kelly Sumner (right) with Larry Cimino.
Summer Programs for Japanese Students

ICIC hosted not one but two groups of Japanese students this past August, one from Tsuda and the other from Hakuoh. Both programs were successful as the students gained insights into American culture and underwent intensive English instruction while they were here.

The Tsuda group arrived first. The theme of their program was “Women in Leadership.” The primary instructors for the three-week program were Kate Dobson and Kelly Sumner, with assistance from Honnor Orlando. Guest lecturers during the three weeks included ICIC Director Ulla Connor, Patricia Wachtel, the president and CEO of Girls, Inc. of Greater Indianapolis, and Joann Ingulli-Fattic, retired Human Resources Director of Eli Lilly and Company. Topics of the program included a Japanese woman’s identity in U.S. business and personal leadership styles.

The 28 Tsuda students had a chance to explore life in and around Indianapolis while they were here. They stayed with host families who introduced them to American life. In addition, trips were planned to several attractions, such as the Indiana State Fair, an Indiana Fever basketball game, and an overnight trip to Chicago.

It wasn’t all fun and tourism, though. The students had classes on most days and produced both essays and oral presentations as part of the program. One of the essays was about a contemporary woman that the student admires. Subjects ranged from world-recognized women like Angela Merkel and Lady Gaga to Japanese sports stars like Sawa Homare and diplomats like Sadako Ogata.

While the Tsuda program focused on women in leadership, the Hakuoh program’s theme was City Development and Urban Planning. Like the Tsuda program, the Hakuoh program included a homestay with an American family, daily classes, and cultural trips for the 27 students who came. The instructor was Joshua Cropsey. Being a shorter program, only two weeks instead of three, the cultural trips were limited to Indianapolis but included trips to the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art, the Indiana History Center, and walking tours of the Canal and downtown Indianapolis. Guest lecturers included Gil Latz, IUPUI’s Associate Vice Chancellor of International Affairs, and Teresa Bennett, Director of the IUPUI Solution Center.

Because the last week of the Tsuda program and the whole Hakuoh program overlapped with the beginning of the fall semester at IUPUI, managing these programs was challenging but we were successful and the students both improved their English skills and enjoyed their trip to Indianapolis.
Projects and Goals for 2014

Andy Buchenot and Ana Traversa will be presenting a paper at the Writing Research Across Borders Conference in Paris, France, on February 21, 2014. The title of the paper is *Redesigning a cancer information web portal: Digital rhetoric and health literacy in action*, written by Andy Buchenot, Ana Traversa and Ulla Connor. Andy and Ana are working on related journal articles about this topic.

Andy Buchenot will be presenting a poster at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in March, 2014. The title of the poster is *Learning from each other: Using wikis to connect graduate and undergraduate composition students*.

Ana Traversa and Veronica Halsema will be attending the TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) conference in Portland, Oregon, in March, 2014. Ana will be on a panel discussing *TESOL as Intercultural Communication* and she will be presenting the paper *Assessing Intercultural Readiness Among Internationals in Medical Residency Programs*, written by Ana Traversa and Ulla Connor. Ana and Veronica will jointly present the paper *The Development of an ESP Program for Latino NICU Parents*, written by Ana Traversa, Veronica Halsema, and Ulla Connor.

Ulla Connor and Rebecca Ellis will be presenting a paper at the Kentucky Conference on Health Communication in April, 2014. The title of the paper is *Partnering with Healthcare Providers to Listen to Patients: Patient-centric Diabetes Management*. This is based on their work in 2013 on a pilot/feasibility study using psychosociolinguistic constructs to tailor messages for people with diabetes to improve medication adherence and healthy behaviors.

Intensive English programs for Tsuda College and Hakuoh University in Japan are being organized for August 2014. Tsuda College women from Tokyo, Japan, participate in a three-week immersion summer program in Indianapolis each year. This successful program, which began in 1994, combines English classroom instruction with distinguished guest speakers and activities to help students develop their leadership skills. Hakuoh University students from Oyama City, Japan, participate in a two-week intensive summer program. Students are immersed in the English language and culture through homestays, classroom work, guest speaker lectures, and cultural activities in the Indianapolis area.

The paper *The Role of Intercultural Rhetoric in ESP Education*, written by Ulla Connor and Ana Traversa, will be published in the proceedings of the 2013 Symposium of the Centre for English Language Communication, which was held in Singapore.

ICIC is seeking a Finnish intern for summer 2014. ICIC and the Department of English Language and Literature at Åbo Akademi University (the only Swedish-language university in Finland) collaborate on an internship program where graduate students of English Language and Literature may carry out their language practice as interns at ICIC. The interns are assigned a mix of administrative office tasks and research support activities. While in Indianapolis, the interns reside with an American family as a way of enhancing their cultural experience.

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**ICIC at Work and at Play**

Director Ulla Connor joins in a Tsuda group activity  
Ana Traversa at mile 25 of the New York City marathon
2013 Publications and Presentations

Publications


Presentations


The **Indiana Center for Intercultural Communication (ICIC)** is a university-based research and service organization created in 1998 to enhance links between the city of Indianapolis, the state of Indiana, and cultures/nations throughout the world. ICIC strives for excellence in language and intercultural training in academic, professional, and other occupational contexts. The center is part of the Indiana University **School of Liberal Arts** at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI).